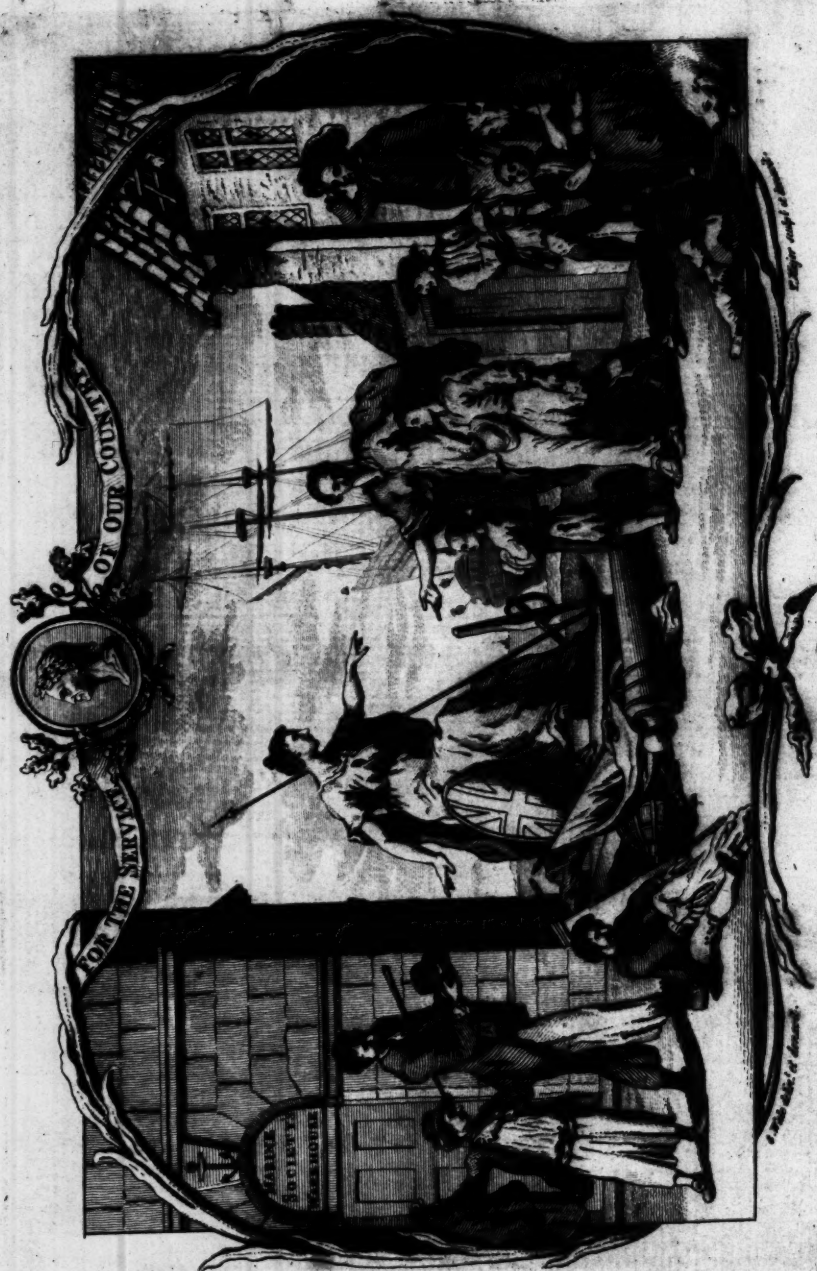
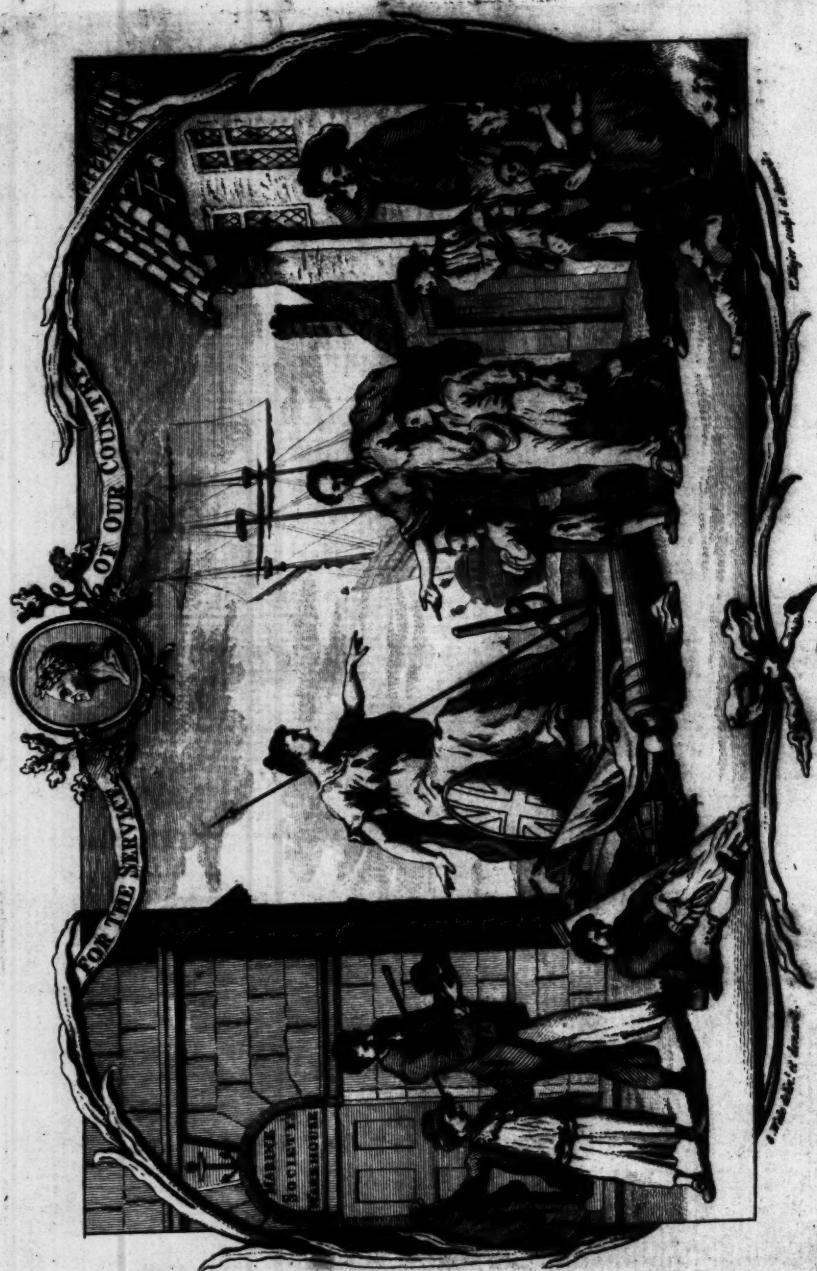






186a15

1.

MOTIVES

FOR THE

ESTABLISHMENT

OF THE

MARINE SOCIETY.

By a MERCHANT. K

L O N D O N :

Printed in the Year M.DCC.LVII.

M O T A V E



MOTIVES, &c.

IT is hardly possible amidst the din of arms, to attend to every necessary act of beneficence; and the blandishments of peace are apt to divert our thoughts from those objects which more peculiarly belong to war. But experience is the great parent of all knowledge; and the observance of familiar incidents, with the common events of things, has ever proved most effectual towards promoting the happiness, or preventing the miseries of mankind.

B

IT

IT is now about eight months since the institution of the MARINE SOCIETY in *London*, the progress and utility of which have rendered it a favorite object of many great and good men. The imputation of novelty, and the difficulties of carrying the design into execution being now removed, the SOCIETY can with the greater propriety communicate the result of their enterprize, and recommend it with the greater confidence.

WE are now called upon to exert ourselves, not merely to guard these *fertile fields*, nor yet to preserve our *domestic joys*, but in defence of the honor and felicity

licity of our Sovereign with the support of our *happy constitution*. Reason and experience urge; *Heaven* itself invokes us to convert our *luxury* and *vanity*, our *puerility* and *effeminacy* into *pious*, *manly*, and *martial* labors.

IN the mean while it is a self-evident proposition, that a puissant State, depending on Trade, must have fleets equally powerful to defend it against a formidable neighbor. *France* is not less ambitious of accumulating wealth, than of shining in arms. The various arts she continually employs to *depress* us, even by her naval strength, ought to inspire us with *resolution*; for if we slumber, if we do

not rouse at the *alarm*, it is most apparent that we shall soon be obliged to yield up those advantages for which our *fathers* have so often bled, *and bid a long farewell to all our glory.*

BUT the manning of great fleets, upon emergencies, and the methods hitherto employed for this purpose, have ever been attended with great difficulties. If these could happily be removed, the *British* naval power might awe the world; and her dominion at sea be so well established, as hardly to be shaken by any potentate on earth.

GRANTING all deserved honor to every military duty, if we consider the
different

different elements of Land and Water, we shall immediately discover, that the common foldier may be more easily formed than the common failor; with this difference also, that if all our Seamen were employed in war, the source of our riches, as derived from commerce, would be cut off, and the sinews of war itself would be broken. In the mean while landmen must be seasoned, as well as disciplined; they must be the sport of winds and waves, before they become able mariners.

HENCE we are naturally led to the consideration of breeding up a race of seamen. If the children of the poor are
sent

sent to sea before their constitutions and turn of mind are formed, they will be habituated to a sea life, and the duties of a ship will become the less perilous and toilsome.

By the regulations of the Royal Navy the number of lads and boys required as *servants*, are about three thousand, to forty thousand men. Of these three thousand, five hundred may be reckoned to grow up and serve as recruits for the Navy the first year; seven hundred the second; eight or nine hundred the third; and the remainder the fourth year. Thus, besides the contingencies of war, and the common course of mortality,

talities, room is given for a quick succession: but there is no bounty, or national encouragement, to induce boys to dedicate themselves to the *service*.

THE promotion of this beneficial end, considered in a political view, is one great object of the MARINE ASSOCIATION, that these young persons may be sent on board the KING's ships, as fast as they can be received as *servants* to HIS MAJESTY'S Officers, taking all possible care that no son leaves his parents, in violation of filial obedience; or deserts his master, in breach of the obligations of civil society.

IT

IT is also necessary for the welfare of the State that a proper choice of these boys be made, with regard to their frame and constitutions, that they may prove hardy stout men, dauntless, and full of vigor. But whilst the SOCIETY are attentive to the important concerns of war, they also endeavor to support the arts of peace, that Agriculture and Manufactory may not droop or languish for want of proper hands. Therefore they seek for these young recruits among those who are most destitute ; whose parents have left them in extreme poverty, or friendless and exposed to those complicated miseries which are most disgraceful to human nature.

To feed the hungry, or to clothe the naked, who are unable to support themselves, are virtues to which the blessings of Heaven are promised. The *choicest* beatitudes are annexed to the *saving a soul from death*; but to rescue numbers of these young persons from the jaws of perdition : to breed them up to the knowledge of social and religious duties ; to present them the fairest prospect of everlasting happiness ; to prevent their being disturbers of the quiet enjoyments of their fellow-subjects ; and at length to teach those, who would have been otherwise totally lost to their country, an occupation on which com-

merce and naval strength depend ; these are objects which constitute the very essence of charity, and include the truest patriotism.

To enter minutely into so important a subject, we ought to *see* these boys, of whom some are infected with distempers which are the frequent attendants of extreme poverty ; many are polluted with filth, and covered with rags, the very stench of which is pestilential : then to review them cured of those maladies, rendered clean and purified, dressed in the most proper clothing, and made as *new creatures* ; such a sight cannot but create that heart-felt joy which dignifies our nature,

[II]

nature, and is the truest characteristic of humanity !

BRITISH benevolence being thus united with native British fire, will diffuse a spirit of patriotism through these realms ; and we may soon hope to see such improvements in maritime affairs, as posterity will look back and view with equal gratitude and applause, whilst they contemplate the solid motives which inspired the people with so generous an ardor in defence of Liberty. If we instruct these young persons in the fear of God, and at the same time teach their hands *to war*, and *their fingers to fight*, in the cause of their country, in the cause

of real and substantial virtue, we may hope such a conduct will draw down the mercies of Heaven on this nation.

THUS has the establishment of the MARINE SOCIETY by so many respectable persons, preserving it under their own immediate care and protection, erected a sure asylum and rendezvous for many miserable objects, who, far from eating the bread of idleness, are ambitious of exposing their lives for the common good. Nor is this generous spirit confined to *London*; the Cities of *Bristol* and *York* are in pursuit of the same object. In this short time there are already near twelve hundred boys, chiefly collected

collected in this Metropolis, to whom physic has been given to such as required it; food to those who were starving; with raiment and bedding proper for the sea-service, provided for them all, as fast as they could be sent on board the Royal Navy.

BUT *boys* are not the only objects to whom the MARINE SOCIETY extend their benevolence; they consider also the greater importance of *men* fit for immediate action. There are many *Landmen* who enter into the sea-service, whose lives the SOCIETY are ambitious to be instrumental in preserving. These are not under the description of *Soldiers*, or *Marines*; not
entitled

entitled to the same bounty, nor the same wages, as *able seamen*, and ignorant of the duties of a sea life. Therefore considering the public service in one enlarged view, at a time when seamen are so much wanted, these land-men appear to be the objects of this private bounty of clothing; and they are truly sensible of its great value in preserving their health.

To engage such men the more readily to serve the KING, the SOCIETY give a complete clothing to as many of them as offer voluntarily; at once providing the means of rendering their lives comfortable; and by such benignant treatment, at their first setting out, securing
their

their most faithful and most zealous services to their KING and Country.

IT is thus the calamities of war become light and easy. Death, let it come early or late, is not terrible to a brave man, but there are many evils of life under which we stand in need of a support.

THE practice of that lesson which teaches *what man should be to man*, with regard to the preservation of life, leads us to the discharge of every duty which can grace human nature, whilst it renders the soldier's toil, however dreadful in itself, rather to be coveted than avoided. The

remembrance that he has *engaged* to defend those whom he knows to be his *real* friends and benefactors, will give him *powers* to which his heart might otherwise be a stranger, and his *ardor* under such circumstances will be the surest earnest of *victory*.

THERE is yet another order of their fellow-subjects which calls forth and exercises the humanity of the MARINE SOCIETY. There are many objects of real compassion sent on board the *Tenders* by the *Civil Magistrate*, and detained as proper persons to serve the KING: such raiment is given by the SOCIETY to these men also, as is thought necessary for the

3

preservation

preservation of their lives ; and to prevent their communicating to others, with whom they must immediately intermix, those infectious stenchs which are the constant companions of filthy garments, especially on board of ships. The number of all the *men* clothed and fitted out by the SOCIETY, already amounts to *seven hundred*, and to all appearance will soon increase very considerably.

THE care with which the SOCIETY enters into the circumstances of every individual, to whom they extend their benevolence, makes them hope they shall be instrumental to some augmentation of HIS MAJESTY'S sea-forces, whilst the

D

method

method which is taken to promote this end will do honor to the *character* of the nation as a people renowned for their humanity.

HEAVEN does not display its *power* with greater lustre in the creation, than its *mercy* in the preservation of mankind; and those who have been most distinguished amongst the race of men as Captains and Leaders of Armies, have acquired their greatest renown by the humanity they have shewn to their companions in the fortune of war.

THE MARINE SOCIETY are morally certain, that by the assistance of Divine Providence

Providence they shall be instrumental in saving a number of lives, at a time when it were happy if the land abounded more with men fit to bear arms; and if they can contribute any thing to the *ease* and *comfort* of their fellow-subjects, they hope it will be acceptable in the sight of GOD and the KING. We *may humbly* hope that *Heaven* will espouse *our cause*, was it only for such acts of mercy, beneficence and *gratitude*, as we shew to our fellow-subjects, to our countrymen, to our *friends*, who devote *their* lives to *our* service.

IF there is a *God* who delights in the happiness of his creatures; if we believe

in his *particular* as well as his *general* providences, we *ought* to hope that he who presides over the day of battle will certainly be *mindful* of us ; and if we do *our* duty to *him*, in a zealous concern for the welfare of *each other*, and *particularly* for those who stand in *need* of assistance, that *he* will divert the *storm*, and *help* us to *subdue* our enemies.

A WORK of such a nature cannot be carried on without some expence, but this has been so well conducted that nothing has been lost or misapplied : all has been done in love to our country, and for the service of those brave men who profess to fight our battles ; and it is very evident,

dent, that much good may be done them at a moderate charge.

SEVERAL *Noblemen* and *Gentlemen*, *Citizens* and *Merchants*, men of patriot spirits, however different in their *politics* in other respects, have not only contributed liberally, but also promoted the *establisment* of this SOCIETY in a manner suitable to the dignity and benevolence of the undertaking, as if they meant to emulate each other in this *manly* and *generous* action ; and what can more effectually answer the great end in view, than the *support* of such a *Society* ?

IT is also universally acknowledged,
that

that nothing sullies the beauty, or stains the lustre of our constitution so much as the custom of impressing men. A constitution so amiable in itself, and so much the admiration of all the nations of the world, will ever merit our utmost vigilance and care. Whatever means therefore can be employed to supersede the necessity, which often arises in time of war, may be deemed worthy the highest attention of a free people.

EVERY one must be sensible of this, whose heart burns with zeal for the *true glory* of a KING, who rejoices in communicating those solid pleasures which arise from mutual love, and a common concern

cern for the glorious cause of virtuous liberty.

THE *real love* of a *free* people must ever prove the most invincible guard of the throne of their Sovereign, and exalt it to its greatest height: their filial piety to him, as their common Parent, will be the only impregnable bulwark against his enemies; whilst *his* delight in *their* happiness will be the *pure* and *uncorrupted* fountain from whence *his own* will spring.

UNDER such circumstances we may yet hope to trace out some vestiges of the *Golden Age*. By such means every object will acquire a pleasing aspect. *Virtue* has
 charms

charms to blunt the edge of *national*, as well as *private* misfortunes, and convert them into *blessings*. And *war* has no terrors to men, whose gratitude and affection make them eager to fly to the standards, and chearfully risk their lives in defence of a PRINCE, who is a *Father* to the wretched, and a real *Friend* and *Parent* to his people.



F I N I S.